

## Craven Vale & Whitehawk Hill Allotments Society

Meeting Sunday, 15 December 2024

### The Bell Tower

#### Present:

Jenny Embleton – 118CV, Treasurer and  
Chairing

James Gilderoy – 37CV, note taker

Jenny Collins – 7WH

Nick Fry – 64CV (CV Site Rep)

Jane Griffin – 46&47WH (WH Site Rep)

Mary Ledgard – 26CV

Tara Salter – 58bCV

Paul Skelly – 37CV

#### Apologies:

Roger Dean

Jono Smyth

Arthur Tallon

#### 1. Minutes from last meeting (AGM 20 July)

- In response to a point made at the AGM, Nick pointed out that Allotment Service advice (BHCC website: '[What to do if you struggle with your allotment](#)') is that the onus is on ploholders to inform the Allotment Service about any circumstances, such as ill health, that might affect their ability to manage their plots sufficiently. These can then be taken into account during site inspections.
- Updating the bank mandate had been completed.
- No recent contact with Men in Sheds. They will be contacted in Spring about using the Hub for events.

#### 2. Matters arising

- Hub grounds improvement activity planned for 15 or 22 February (weather dependent) and would focus on reinstating the up-slope boundary.
- The above to include getting the newly donated strimmer to work.
- **Site Reps** would ask allotment service about status of Belta's 'community plot' and possibility of letting it as four smaller plots, if Belta has abandoned it.

#### 3. Site Rep updates

- Nick (CV Site Rep) reported that 12 plots were recently let, some to mini-bedders, with the council clearing the plots before occupation.
- The BHCC and BHAF oversight committee had produced a useful report.
- BHCC expected to bring online in January 2025 a new IT system for managing allotments. Site Reps would have access to the system and 47% had already undertaken GDPR training for this.
- Four deliveries of free compost had been made, part of BHCC's no dig campaign, further campaigns on different growing topics were anticipated.
- Concern was expressed about the on-going problem of large amounts of food waste left at Beresford Road gates, apparently for composting, but with no one on site taking it in.

- Generally, Nick it felt BHCC's service delivery was improving, with more Site Rep training and fewer plot vacancies.
- Jane (WH Site Rep) reported that of 10 plots let since July only five were being actively worked; the three-month probation period was not being acted on by BHCC and there had been no tenancy terminations for at least two years. Communications with the allotment team remained difficult. The lack of response from BHCC was very frustrating and demotivating for voluntary Site Reps.

#### 4. Mini-beds

- About half the mini-bedders had moved to full or half plots at recent lettings; all but one of the mini-beds had been re-let, with two candidates on the waiting list.
- A seating area, compost bins and water-harvesting from the shed had been installed.
- Work on further mini-beds (with wider spacing) would commence on 18 January.
- Representatives from Roedale and Tenantry Downs sites were planning to visit the mini-beds to learn from CVWHAS experience. **Mary** agreed to post a story about this on the BHAFF FaceBook page.
- Following a discussion about requests to help new plot-holders (not just mini-bedders) get going it was decided to explore teaching sessions from Fork and Dig IT and circulating 'jobs for the month' type information to CVWHAS members. The Allotment Shed FaceBook group was also recommended.
- £118 of mini-bed funds left.

#### 5. Finance and Membership

- Currently £1400 in the bank and 69 members.

#### 6. AOB

- Decided against the offer of a large pizza oven as it was too big.
- Another pizza night was planned for the start of Summer Time, 29 March.

#### 7. Next meeting

- Easter weekend 19/20 April

#### Dates for the Diary

18 Jan – mini-bed working party

29 March – pizza night

Spud-in-a-Bucket launch – April

Seedling/plant swap – late May